

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, NAM, UNGA, CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN PERM REP COMMENTS ON BELGRADE NAM

REF: USUN 3091

1. DURING HIS MEETING WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR ROA CONCERNING PUERTO RICO (SEE REFTTEL), AMBASSADOR YOUNG COMMENTED ON HIS VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA. HE TOLD ROA HE HAD BEEN STRONGLY IMPRESSED BY THE YUGOSLAV'S COMMITMENT TO NON-ALIGNMENT, AND BY THEIR VIEW THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COULD PROVIDE A NECESSARY BALANCE BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS. HE HAD HEARD SOME CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER CUBA'S ROLE IN THE NAM, PARTICULARLY OVER WHAT APPEARED TO BE CUBA'S DRIVE TO ASSERT LEADERSHIP IN THE MOVEMENT. THE ERIMARY PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT HAD BEEN TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR THE NAMIBIA AROPOSALS AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

2. ROA CONCEDED THAT A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES AT THE NAM BELGRADE MEETING HAD EXPRESSED CONCERNOVER CUBA. THE CONCERN, HOWEVER, WAS NOT SO MUCH OVER CUBA AS OVER WHAT THEY PERCEIVED TO BE THE SOVIET UNION'S INFLUENCE. A MAJORITY OF THE AFRICANS, HOWEVER, HAD

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SUPPORTED CUBA.

3. ROA WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE ISSUES NOW BEING DISCUSSED IN THE NAM WERE CHANGING AND BECOMING MORE COMPLEX. LOCAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES WERE TAKING MORE ATTENTION AND TENDED TO BE DIVISIVE. INFLUENCES FROM OUTSIDE THE NAM WERE MAKING THEMSELVES FELT. ROA SAID THAT HE WAS

AWARE THAT THE US HAD SENT MESSAGES TO 15 HEADS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS PRIOR TO THE MEETING TO ORGANIZE OPPOSITION TO CUBA. YOUNG RESPONDED THAT US CONCERN WAS NOT OVER CUBA, BUT OVER CERTAIN ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE US.

4. ROA SAID THAT AT BELGRADE MUCH ATTENTION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE NATURE OF NON-ALIGNMENT. THE CUBANS BELIEVE THAT A "NATURAL ALLIANCE" EXISTS BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND NON-ALIGNMENT. THIS ISSUE HAD ALWAYS BEEN PRESENT IN SOME DEGREE DURING NAM DISCUSSIONS, BUT AT BELGRADE IT CAME TO THE FORE. NOT ALL AGREED WITH CUBA'S POSITION. CUBA HAD NO DESIRE TO IMPOSE ITS VIEWS ON OTHERS.

5. ROA SAID THAT HE VIEWED THE RESULTS OF THE BELGRADE MEETING TO HAVE BEEN GOOD. THE CYPRESS RESOLUTION WAS "VERY GOOD". THE LATIN AMERICAN SECTION WAS "BETTER THAN BEFORE".

6. COMMENT: ROA APPEARED CORDIAL AND RELAXED THROUGHOUT THE MEETING. HE REFRAINED FROM BEING DRAWN INTO A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE DYNAMICS OF THE BELGRADE MEETING. YOUNG

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